

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3243
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
OLD FLEET OF AIR INDIA AND INDIAN AIRLINES
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the aircrafts used by the Air India, Indian Airlines and their subsidiaries are very old and unfit for safe air journeys;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of aircrafts used by the Air India, Indian Airlines and their subsidiaries alongwith their age and flying hours used;
- (c) the details of the amount spent on the maintenance of aircrafts by Air India and Indian Airlines in the last three years and on the purchase of new aircraft;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the risks for the air passengers are on the increase due to the use of older and out-dated aircraft; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to solve this grave problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e):- No life span is specified for aircraft. The operation of an aircraft may continue subject to airworthiness being certified by the DGCA. All the aircraft in the fleets of Air India, Indian Airlines and its subsidiary, are maintained in airworthy condition meeting all the requirements of manufacturers as well as DGCA. The fleet of Air India Limited consists of 27 aircraft (including four aircraft taken on dry lease) with average age of 13.73 years. The fleet of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air consists of 55 aircraft (including four aircraft on dry lease) with average of 16.7 years.

The details of the amount spent on maintenance of aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Amount
(Rupees in crores)	

Air India

1998-1999	246.14
1999-2000	236.05
2000-2001	381.51 (Prov.)

Indian Airlines

1998-1999	498.00
1999-2000	588.00
2000-2001	662.00 (Prov.)

Both the airlines have not purchased any new aircraft during the last three years. Air India have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease with a view to augment its routes and passengers carrying capacity. Indian Airlines has invited bids for dry lease of four A-320 aircraft to meet its short term capacity requirement. Alliance Air has also issued advertisement for Global tender inviting bids for lease in of 6 ATR 42-500. The offers received by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are being examined by respectively in-house Committees.

